

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1 Claim 1. (Amended) A method of producing elastomer masterbatch, comprising:
2 feeding a continuous flow of first fluid comprising elastomer latex to a
3 mixing zone of a coagulum reactor defining an elongate coagulum zone extending
4 from the mixing zone to a discharge end;
5 feeding a continuous flow of second fluid comprising particulate filler
6 under pressure to the mixing zone of the coagulum reactor to form a mixture with
7 the elastomer latex, the mixture passing as a continuous flow to the discharge end
8 and the particulate filler being effective to coagulate the elastomer latex, wherein
9 feeding of the second fluid against [mixing of the first fluid and] the second fluid
10 within the mixing zone is sufficiently energetic to substantially completely
11 coagulate the elastomer latex with the particulate filler prior to the discharge end;
12 and
13 discharging a substantially continuous flow of elastomer masterbatch from
14 the discharge end of the coagulum reactor.

1 C³ Claim 8. (Amended) A continuous flow method of preparing elastomer masterbatch of
2 particulate filler dispersed in elastomer, comprising:
3 A) establishing a continuous, semi-confined flow of [mixed] combined
4 elastomer latex and particulate filler under pressure in a coagulum reactor forming
5 an elongate coagulum zone extending with progressively increasing cross-sectional
6 area from an entry end to a discharge end, by simultaneously
7 (i) feeding elastomer latex fluid continuously to a mixing zone at the
8 entry end of the coagulum reactor, and
9 (ii) entraining the elastomer latex fluid into particulate filler fluid by
10 feeding the particulate filler fluid as a continuous jet into the mixing zone